

## **CHAPTER 39-04.2 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**39-04.2-01. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Public transportation" means the vehicular transportation of persons from place to place within this state, but does not include the provision of transportation facilities otherwise provided by public funds, such as roads, streets, highways, bridges, lighting equipment, or signs.
2. "Ridership" means a one-way trip provided to any one person in a motorized vehicle designed to carry eight or more persons in an enclosed area with separate seating for each person.
3. "Transportation provider" means a political subdivision or any nonprofit corporation that provides transportation to the public, especially to elderly and handicapped citizens.

**39-04.2-02. Public transportation fund - Administration of the fund.** The director shall administer the public transportation fund. Payments disbursed under this chapter must be paid from moneys deposited in the fund. The expenses arising from administration of the fund must be paid from the fund within the limits of legislative appropriations.

**39-04.2-03. Additional registration fee - Deposit in fund.** At the time of registering a motor vehicle subject to registration under section 39-04-19, the owner shall pay to the director in addition to the registration fee a fee of three dollars for each motor vehicle registered. The fee must be deposited with the state treasurer, who shall credit the fee to the public transportation fund.

**39-04.2-04. Distribution of funds.**

1. Moneys appropriated by the legislative assembly to the public transportation fund must be disbursed under guidelines issued by the director. The funds must be used by transportation providers to establish and maintain public transportation, especially for the elderly and handicapped, and may be used to contract to provide public transportation, as matching funds to procure money from other sources for public transportation and for other expenditures authorized by the director.
2. Following authorization of the director, the state treasurer shall pay the public transportation funds to transportation providers in each county. Each county shall receive eighteen thousand three hundred dollars plus one dollar and fifty cents per capita of population in the county, based upon the latest regular or special official federal census. Each year the director shall increase or decrease the one dollar and fifty cents per capita amount in order to distribute all funds appropriated for the biennium. If there are multiple transportation providers in one county, then the base amount of eighteen thousand three hundred dollars must be divided equally among the providers and the additional per capita amount must be based upon the percentage of elderly and handicapped ridership provided by each transportation provider within the county.
3. Unless otherwise provided by law, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each biennium must be retained in the public transportation fund for redistribution.